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OPENING STATEMENT
CONGRESSMAN FRANCIS E. WALTER (D.PA.), CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES
2:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1960

Pursuant to law and the rules of this Committee, I have appointed a subcommittee for the purpose of conducting this hearing composed of Representatives William M. Tuck of Virginia, August E. Johansen of Michigan, and myself, Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania, as Chairman.

This hearing today is conducted in response to the duties imposed upon us by the Congress of the United States, to make a continuing study of Communist activities. This is a necessary and vital area of inquiry, for the onslaught of the enemies of freedom grows more vocal and impressive in all parts of the world with each passing day. We must be informed, if we are to cope effectively with the aggressive falsehoods of Communist propaganda. Only the truth shall make and keep us free.

It is not always easy to penetrate Communist double-talk. Mr. Khrushchev will quote the Scriptures of democracy with the hypocrisy of the Devil. He has sowed the fiction of class struggle, so that he may reap the personal privilege of class power. He will continue to paint a falsely glowing picture of his Communist paradise, but he will not let in the light of the western free world to reveal its shabbiness, its shame, and the miserable view of tortured souls who are made to kneel in worship to the Baal of Materialism.

The proclaimed lust of the Communist dictatorship for power and world domination, plainly set forth in their theoretical writings, and confirmed by their conduct, brings us to the threshhold of the Dark Ages. Their admitted policy of imposition, whether by force or deceit, of the atheistic and inhuman views of the few on the many, is a shocking fact of this supposedly civilized day. It is inconceivable that all this is taking place in the Twentieth Century.

The reasonable defensive efforts of the free world are brazenly vilified and misrepresented, a great and calculated noise is raised by the Communist "cheer-leaders," in their effort to quiet our voices and to camouflage their planned aggressions. The Communist use of the Big Lie is reminiscent of its adoption by another dictator, the late and unlamented Hitler.

In this hearing today we seek to inform ourselves in matters basic to the fulfillment of our duties, and which is essential to effective legislation in this field and for the defense of the Country. I might also add, in this area of informing itself, the Congress is also exercising its right of free speech, which belongs to all people here under our Constitution, and is a necessity even in the legislative process.

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EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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The Committee takes pleasure in having here today former Soviet Navy Captain third rank, Nikolai Fedorovich Artamonov. Captain Artamonov is 32 years old and a native of Leningrad. He served in the Soviet Navy from 1941 until June, 1959, and established a distinguished record.

Captain Artamonov was given command of a Soviet Red Banner Baltic fleet destroyer in September, 1955, which command he retained until he made his way to the West.

Captain Artamonov has on a number of occasions been singled out for special attention and commendation in the Soviet press. Articles concerning him have appeared in the Soviet Ministry of Defense newspaper Red Star and the newspaper Soviet Navy, in which he has been cited for such things as outstanding performance and leadership, for having achieved a very high degree of competence in anti-submarine training, proficiency for propagandizing Party decisions among his officers and men, and his destroyer having been chosen as one of two Soviet destroyers to pay an official visit to Copenhagen. We did not learn this from Captain Artamonov, but the Committee has copies of these newspapers with the articles about him. Under the Soviet system these articles can be considered as a great tribute to him.

Captain Artamonov was at Gdynia, Poland, training Indonesians in the operations of his destroyer from September, 1958, until June, 1959, at which time he escaped to the West.

Listening to this young man's statements about the Soviet military and political intentions, strategy, capabilities, Soviet espionage, and the present lot of the Soviet citizen, we were reminded again of the aggressive and deceitful threat to world peace the Soviet Union represents. We believe that Captain Artamonov must speak for himself in bringing these points home to the Congress of the United States and the American people, and to those in the Free World and behind the Iron Curtain who are willing and able to listen.

Before proceeding I would like to announce the witness has been previously examined in executive session. Because of security requirements much of the testimony cannot be dealt with at this hearing, but there are certain areas of information that we deem of public interest and concern, and of importance to our study.

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